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Local News.-The City and Suburban News Bures of the United Pages and New York AMOCIATE Passa is at \$1 to \$9 Ann street. All informatio and documents for public use instantly dissems a nated to the press of the whole country.

The United States.

Secretary OLNEY's proposal for a treaty of arbitration between Great Britain and America has stirred again the recollection of England's long-standing enmity to the United States. In the past alone there is enough to make any loyal American shrink instinctively from a proposition that hence forth the United States shall submit the adjustment of any important dispute with England to a foreign arbitrator. And yet, compared to the present and future, the past is as nothing.

To-day the United States is encircled by the power of England, from stations close upon our coasts up to our very borders, all fortifled and equipped for hostilities. No civilized country in the world is so strategically threatened by another as the United States is threatened by England. It is no exaggeration to say that the only country on the globe which history and existing circumstances make our natural enemy is England. Only a year ago it was revealed that England was on the verge of new conquest on the Western Hemisphere, declared by Prestdent MONROE to be hereafter forbidden to foreign capture. The British Government has a dozen ports more useful for warlike operations than the single little island of Heligoland, which Germany so mysteriously acquired only a few years ago.

It is beginning to be more generally understood that, if this republic is to fulfil its natural destiny in the world, we must grow up with it. And yet we hear, mainly, to be sure, on the part of emotion, mugwumpery, and the ever timid commerce, that it is high statesmanship to select England for a partner to whom we shall give a substantial pledge of security and toleration.

Since BENJAMIN HARRISON left the White House, with the exception of the CLEVELAND message on Venezuela, the guidance of the foreign affairs of the United States has been inconceivable in its folly.

Four Years of McKinley; Five Years of the Treaty.

It is a somewhat remarkable fact that every difficult and troublesome question of domestic and foreign policy engendered during Mr. CLEVELAND'S term goes over to Major McKinley's Administration for settlement, with the single exception of the Venezuelan affair.

At the same time the final and crowning enterprise of Mr. CLEVELAND and his Secretary of State is an effort, in cooperation with Lord SALISBURY, to tle up the free hands of American diplomacy, so far as our relations with Great Britain are concerned for a period covering the whole of the term for which McKINLEY is elected.

If the Arbitration Treaty should be ratifled before the fourth of March, it would by its own terms remain in force until February or March, 1902, even if a single year's experience should meanwhile have gives was followed by all those to whom he convinced every American that we had been hurried into a most disadvantageous agreement. Major McKinley's term will end in March, 1901. For the whole four years, therefore, he and his Secretary of State will be bound by a new and untried system invented and forced upon them by their irresponsible predecessors, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

This is consummately selfish on the part of CLEVELAND and OLNEY. If any momentary glory is to be derived from the superficial and sentimental aspects of a measure hastily hailed as the harbinger of peace on earth and good will among Anglo-Saxon men, CLEVELAND and OLNEY get it all; and they get themselves out of the way be fore the reaction sets in or the process of disillusionment begins. If a tremendous mistake has been committed, if OLNEY and his chief have been outwitted by the wily veterans of Downing street, if Mr. OLNEY's blind pool turns out a dead loss to the American nation, all the hard consequences, the em barrassments, the burdens, the strife, and the objurgations fall upon the McKINLEY Administration. The authors of the treaty will be far away; the victims of the treaty, struggling on for four years at Washington must do the best they can with the hands

which their predecessors have tied. Can any friend of Major McKINLEY in the United States Senate desire to subject the next Administration to the unknown, unforeseen consequences of an internationa arrangement, in making which that Administration will have had no part ?

Remember that while Major McKINLEY's term last four years, Mr. OLNEY's treaty with England lasts five.

The Free-Seed Shop.

We find in the report of Special Agent ENOS S. HARNDEN to Secretary MORTON some interesting statistics and computations regarding the distribution of vegetable seeds for the last fiscal year.

The packages were sent out between April 23 and June 6 inclusive, and there were over 2,000,000 of them, filling nearly 1,700 mail sacks. The total weight was 465,756 pounds, so that the cost of postage on them, at the regular rate for seeds as paid by private persons, would be about \$74,521. Thirty mail cars were needed to transport them. Looking at the kind of seeds distributed, there were enough to plant 21,088 acres of cabbages, while second and third on the acreage list come lettuce, 10,786, and tomatoes 10,712, the former thus winning by a few heads. Corn, cucumbers, melons, beets, and other vegetables follow, making enough for a total of 78,644 acres.

This in another form is an area of over 115 square miles of ground; or, as Mr. HARNDEN computes, it would be equivalent to "a strip 1 rod in width and 86,817 miles in length, or nearly 11/4 times the circumference of the earth, and a fast express train travelling at the rate of sixty miles per hour along this garden patch would require fifty-one days three hours and fourteen minutes to pass from one end to the other; or, had the seed been planted in a single row,

than seven times the equatorial circumference of the earth."

If these seeds had been used equally, each Senator, Representative, and Delegate in Congress would have had enough to plant more than 168% acres of garden truck. The mail packages spoken of do not represent all the different packets of seeds purchased, as these amounted to 10,125,000, the cost being \$75,000. Adding the estimated cost of mail transportation, merely at the figure above given, the total expense is \$129,521. Scores of closely printed and tabulated pages show by whom and to whom seeds were sent. Besides the 2,025,000 packages of vegetable seed, each containing five packets, there were 200,000 packages of flower seed distributed, those also contain-

ing five packets each. During the present year the free-seed distribution, it appears, is to be greatly increased, seeds costing \$180,000 having been contracted for, a decided increase over last year. Since the prices also are lower, it is believed that Congressmen will be able to send out twice as many seeds as last year, and, in fact, enough to employ about sixty mail cars and to plant an area of about 930 square miles.

The Way to Ruin.

The Rev. Dr. RAINSFORD advises people not to attend costly and luxurious social entertainments this winter, on the ground that "this is not a time for such affairs," since they "furnish texts for homilies on the heartless extravagance of the wealthy in the face of poverty and destitution." In other words, the rector of St. George's would have all such gavety and all expenditure upon it cease, because, as he says further, " the lines between the two classes, those who have wealth and those who envy them," were never " more distinctly drawn." Of course. if people should not go to costly entertain

ments nobody should give them. If, therefore, his advice were followed the rich would have to refrain from all luxurious indulgences which are obtainable by wealth only. The opera house would have to be closed, and the great body of people deriving their living from its maintenance turned adrift. The theatres would have to shut up, depriving of employment other hundreds of men and women, for they are kept open "in the face of poverty and destitution," shut out from them because of inability to pay the price of admission. The traders whose business it is to supply the luxuries now demanded by the rich would be driven into bank ruptcy. The great and luxurious hotels would be empty. Servants would be dismissed by thousands because they are an 'extravagance" denied to the poor. Livery stables would have no patronage All except the cheapest class of restaurants would be forced to shut up, and the business of New York generally would receive the heaviest blow from which it ever suffered in its history.

The greatest injury that can be done to the prosperity of a community comes from enforced or voluntary economy on the part of society. If every family in New York should begin to-day to cut down its expenditures by a small fraction only, the sum of the loss to trade and labor would be so vast that it would bring disaster to business and industry generally. If the rich, more especially, should cut off all "extravagance," the consequence would be an ap nalling increase in "poverty and destitution," for trades employing thousands of men and women would be deprived of support.

Dr. RAINSFORD, instead of preaching to his rich parishioners that they should curtail their luxurious expenditures "in the face of poverty and destitution," should rather exhort them to spend their incomes and not economize unnecessarily, and more particularly at a time when trade and industry are in special need of the stimulus of such free expenditure, or "extravagance," as he calls it. If the advice he now addresses it, the number and the suffering and the discontent of the poor and destitute would be increased portentously.

The New Senators.

The exact political status of the Senate will not be known until the final adjust ment of the difficulties which exist in Ken tucky and Delaware, and until all the vacan cles are filled. There are deadlocks in several of the States. From present appearances, instead of two or at most three groups of members, the next Senate will have five, namely, the Republicans, the silver Democrate, the Populists, the honest-money Democrats, and the silver Republicans. In twelve States Senators were chosen on Tuesday last. In six of these the present incumbents were reëlected, as follows: OBVILLE H. PLATT, Republican, in Connecticut; GEORGE G. VEST. Democrat. in Missouri J. H. GALLINGER, Republican, in New Hampshire; James K. Jones, Democrat, in Arkansas; HENRY M. TELLER, silver Populist, in Colorado, and HENRY C. HANS-BROUGH, Republican, in North Dakota.

In New York DAVID B. HILL, the Demo cratic leader until the wild wave of Populism struck and engulfed the Democracy, has been succeeded by THOMAS C. PLATT. the recognized and undisputed leader of the Republicans. In Indianapolis CHARLES W. FAIRBANKS, who was the temporary Chairman of the Republican National Convention which met in St. Louis on June 16 and nominated McKINLEY and HOBART, has been elected to succeed DANIELW. VOORHEES. In Pennsylvania Botes PENROSE, an organization Republican, living in the city of Philadelphia, which has not had a representative in the United States Senate for many years, was chosen by the Republicans, by an overwhelming majority at Harrisburg, to succeed Don CAMERON. In Illinois WIL-LIAM E. MASON, a native New Yorker born in the southern tier, from which likewise Senator-elect PLATT and Senator TELLER hail, was chosen with unexpected unanimity to succeed John M. PALMER, the candidate of the National Democracy for the Presidency. Mr. MASON lives in the city of Chicago; thus in Illinois, as also in Indiana and Pennsylvania on Tuesday, the disposition of the dominant party to look to the large cities for Senator candidates, Instead of to the minor towns, is noticeable. Senator PALMER is a resident of Springfield, Senator CAMERON of Harrisburg, and Senator Voor-HEES of Terre Haute. In North Carolina JETER PRITCHARD, a silver Republican, has been redlected, and in Kansas the remarkable WILLIAM ALFRED PEFFER, who had no previous experience in Congress when elected to the Senate by the Populists in 1891, has been "turned down" in favor of another Populist from the Sunflower State, namely, WILLIAM A. HARRIS, who was elected Congressman in 1893 by the Democrats and Populists in opposition to the Republican candidate. PEFFER, the present Senator, and HARRIS, who succeeds him, have each a war record. PEFFER was

on the Union side in the Eighty-third

Confederate side in the army of North Virginia. PEFFER is a lawyer by pro-fession; HARRIS, who succeeds him, is civil engineer. PEFFER has had nothing to do with the Union Pacific Railroad except to denounce that corporation; HARRIS sided in the construction of the Kansas division as an engineer. PEFFEE is ten years older than his anocessor and is aid to know very much less. Both are ardent and unconditional silverites, and the colitical divisions in the Senate are not altered in any respect by the substitution of one for the other.

From Delaware there are three claimants for the seat of Senator, Col. DU PONT, a Republican, Mr. Appicks, an Addicks Republican, and RICHARD R. KENNEY, a Democratic silverite whose election is declared irregular by a part of the Republicans at Dover, while other Republican members leclare that there is no vacancy in the delegation from Delaware, Col. Du Pont, heretofore elected, being entitled to the seat. Kentucky has but one Senator. WILLIAM LINDSAY, and the post of his former colleague, Senator BLACKBURN, remains vacant, the division of the two political parties in this former Democratio stronghold being now very close, and, under the biennial system, there being no Legislature in session in Frankfort this winter unless convoked by the Republican Governor, BRADLEY. It is said that BRADLEY himself has Senatorial aspirations. The date fixed for the pext session of the Kentucky Legislature is Jan. 3, 1898.

The Boston Mycologists.

In the dark backward and abvam of time Boston was famous for the Anthology Club, which developed into the North America Review, a publication written and edited by many good authors and scholars, and finally transferred to this town, to which the seat of authorship took its way. Will the history of the Boston Mycological Club follow similar lines? Will the study of mushcooms be as the study of man? Will there be a Mycological Review, and will New York become ultimately the home of the scientific testers of fungi? Probably, for there are here more persons worthy to know and enjoy edible mushrooms than can be found anywhere else. At any rate, the work of the Boston Mycological Club is interesting and important. Few of the numbers on the long programme of things fit to eat are equal to the mushroom in temperament and the capacity to give pleasure. To honor that meritable fungus and silence the cal umuy of toadstools is the chief purpose of the Boston Mycological Club. "To study edible mushrooms and toadstools and those noxious and poisonous kinds which may be mistaken for them; to arouse a wider appreciation of the value of a cheap and abundant food supply which is in America comparatively neglected; and by exhibitions, lectures, and publications to make easy and certain the recognition of the few fungi that are poisonous and of the many that are delicious and substantial food." A hundred societies in Boston pursne noisily ends less valuable to the world The man who has never roamed the fields and hunted mushrooms before breakfast and for breakfast, and had them worthily cooked after his successful return, knows little of nature and nothing of art. It sometimes seems to fish-blooded outsiders that the Boston of these days devotes herself to matters of small moment and warmings over of literary subjects naturally cold. In returning to mushrooms, she returns to some of the principal and intrinsic facts

Every Saturday, from 12 to 3, the Bosto Mycological Club has an exhibition and a talk in Horticultural Hall. It meets during the winter for discussions and lectures. and it "conducts excursions for study and collection in the field." With a good cook such excursions must be trips to the midst of the terrestrial paradise.

Mr. HOLLIS WESSTER of Cambridge the Secretary of the club, is the author of an account of the "Edible Fungi Collected and Eaten by Members of the Boston Mycological Club, mainly during 1896." take the liberty of extracting from his report information of value to all lovers of mushrooms; that is, to a large majority of the friends of beauty and progress. We must premise, however, that Mr. WEBSTER and his mycological colleagues go a little further in their philomycology than the mere ordinary friend of mushrooms is prepared to go. Mr. WEB-STER and his colleagues eat all sorts of fungi, and of those wherefrom they fall to die they say pleasant things. This is an admirable spirit, but it seems excessive to

hope that it will be generally imitated. Take, for instance, Amanita muscaria I. (False Orange.) Mr. JULIUS A. PALMER. the President of the Mycologers, knows people who have eaten a False Orange and survived, and so he has suggested that it is not poisonous. Mr. EDMUND MICHAEL of Auerbach, Germany, whose "Guide for Mushroom Lovers" is still in German has cooked and eaten " a fair-sized specimen " of False Orange, "after removing the skin of the cap." He lived, and "beyoud an unpleasant feeling in the throat he was not affected. But the taste was disagreeable. Raw, in a salad, it was still more disagreeable." This shows the industry of the true fungus tester. His taste must be catholic. He lives to test. If he dies, he has died in a good cause, but it does not necessarily follow that the fungus which slew him will slav other "It is well to say in regard to this and other suspected fungi," remarks Mr. WEBSTER, "that experiments in eating them should be made with great caution. It is quite possible that what is safe for one person may be dangerous for another." It is equally possible that what is dangerous for one person may be safe for another. Of the edible amanitas as a whole, it is pleasant to hear that they are of delicate flavor, require little cook ing, and are excellent baked on toast, tightly covered." What more could be asked? False Orange, also known as Fly Killer.

and supposed to be a deadly poison, should not be allowed to prejudice the just mind against the amanitas. There are constitu tions to which even the Fly Killer is not dangerous, even if disagreeable. But why not consider fungi of better character? The Parasol (Lepiota procera Scopo) is "generally reported as excellent cooked in any way ; when old is very nutty, but tough; may b dried." Nutty even when tough and antique, O excellent Parasol! Lepiota rachodes Vitl. is "good sautéd," better, for example, than the curious word, "sautéd." Leptota Americana Pk. is "excellent when properly cooked." It has the additional merit of appearing in abundant and repeated crops, and of keeping and drying well. One of our members has two bushels, dried, for winter use." A hospitable mem-

ber, let us hope. The Smooth White Agaric, sometimes misnamed the Chalk, is pronounced taste-less by some, "a fault which may be remeit would be 175,391 miles in length, more | Illinois Infantry: HARRIS was on the died by adding a few Fairy Rings. Others

call it one of the best." Even of mushrooms there is no exact science. The Honey Mushroom "is not always honey-colored, being very often dingy brown; nor does it taste like honey, as some people have been led to suppose. Raw, it is very disagreeable.' Unworthy of its name, but why should the taste of an uncooked mushroom be laid up against it ? What names these fungi bave! The Yellow Blusher "is good baked or scalloped." It is less poetically known as Tricholoma Sejunctum Som. Shaggy Mane is "one of the best of the edible fungi," and Yellow Sweetbread " is a mushroom worth going a long way to get." Even Bricktop is " very good, after a preliminary scalding with salted water."

The Boston mycologists dou't let any fungus escape them. Lactarius piperatus has been eaten as a sort of duty after the acridity was taken out. No member of the club is obliged to eat this or any other unattractive fungus. In the woods it usurps the place that might well be occupied by something better." This is the only severe remark which Mr. WEBSTER permits himself to make about his pets. We prefer to think of him in his normal mood, with a specimen of Hygrophorus hypothejus, for instance, before him. He looks upon it with the indulgent smile of all fungivores and says: "When dried, it is crisp, nutty, and tender, and very good to carry in the pocket for an occasional nibble."

The Lost Two Billions.

Mr. EDWARD ATKINSON is reported in the Atlanta Constitution as having remarked. in an address delivered in New Jersey, that the country cannot be prosperous again until the farmers, and those who depend on them, are, in a measure, recouped for the enormous losses they have sustained since 1893. These losses are estimated by competent authorities to amount in the aggregate to the vast sum of \$2,000,000,000;

wo thousand millions of dollars. This is so unphilosophical that we hesitat to believe that the remark proceeded from a gentleman for whose outgivings we enter tain considerable respect; always excepting his Potage au Plein Soleil, his alleged lamb briskets, his five-cent quail, and his Aladdin puddings in glass jars.

To describe as "losses" the profits which might have been made under other conditions is the language neither of sound po litical economy nor of common sense.

It would be quite as philosophical for Mr. ATKINSON to affirm that because there are seventy millions of people in the United States eating every day three meals which cost on an average, let us say, ten cents apiece, this country has "lost" during the past four years \$3,839,500,000 by not using universally his Aladdin stove, with its fivecent breakfasts, dinners, and suppers.

Manifestly a clergyman of Dr. RAINSronn's way of thinking as to the indulgences of the rich should cease to be the rector of St. leorge's. St. George's is one of the churches in this city particularly noted for its number of well-to-do parishioners, who habitually entertain their friends elegantly and luxurious y, or in a manner corresponding to their cir umstances. This practice is sure to continue to some extent, and therefore it is little less than a public scandal that Dr. RAINSFORD should practically give it his countenance, and permit his views on social morals to be openly iefied, by remaining in St. George's pulpit.

No pettifogging distinction between spending money for social pleasures, lavishly or moder tainment, is worthy of consideration. Equally mpertinent is the particular amount of poverty that may exist at the moment. Neither Dr RAIMSFORD nor his parishioners, that is, certainly the great number of them, can retain their eif-respect and continue in their present relations.

We need a Secretary who will give public no-tice that he will pay no bills in excess of his income.—

This profound utterance demands amplifica ion. Does the Post want a Secretary of the Treasury who will refuse to honor an appropri ation by Congress of money at hand on the ground that the annual revenue is less that the expenses? Or does it want a statesman who, after bonds have been sold for the main senance of the gold standard, will faithfully espect his lack of authority, which Presiden LEVELAND has noticed officially, to issue bonds ocked up? What a terrible attack on the Administration!

Dr. Rainsford's Ban.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUS-Str.: Permit me to call at ention to the absurdities of the objections made by Dr. lainsford to the Bradley Martin bal masque. He says mainstord to the Bradley Martin bal masque. He says mas such a lavish expenditure of money, at a time when people are badly in need of it, "furnishes texts on the beartless extravagance of the wealthy in the face of poverty and destitution. The money thus put is circulation," he claims, "benefits only the already in circulation," he claims, "benefits only the airsedy wealthy "florists caterers, and fashionable modistes." Back of every florist are acres of flower gardens, in which hundreds of poor people make a living. Hack of every caterer is an army of persons whose living depends on various things, from dish-washing to deorating ohina and designing sliverware, to say nothing of the farmers who plough the fields, and the widows who peddle poultry, tack of every modists is an army of weavers, cloth finisher, machine operatives, and dye workers.

If a bal masque coating \$55,000 were given in New York every night in the week during the winter it would put in circulation about \$2,000,000 which would otherwise be placed in banks and trust companies, to be leaned on mortgages of the priperty of the various people who now depend on the florist, the caterer, and this modiste for a living. The fullest churches in New York are held by men like Dr. Rainsford. Every fat check put in the collection of the various of the various of the various modiste for a living and definition. The fine face of the present powerty and the contractive of the theory of the present powerty and the contractive of the theory of the present powerty and also contractives and get also with less expensive in turies in whether the waste of the ils congregation give their money elsewhere, and ge-tions with less expensive luxuries in the way of min sters and less extravagant entertainments in the wa

The Slege of Atlanta.

From the Atlanta Constitution. Col. Fred Grant and Gen. S. D. Lee are the leaders of having for its object the purchase of he country around Vicksburg by the Government The idea is to perpetuate the battlefields of the me make an appropriation for the purpose.

It is time to move in the matter of a similar recog-

nition by the Government of Atlanta's claims as or of the historic cities of the civil war. Our slege of forty days was distinguished by hard fighting and perolem on both sides, and it practically decided the fate of the Confederacy.

The Government should restore some of the old

marks in the shape of forts and breastworks in our suburbs, and beautify them. In the generations to come thousands of tourists will visit the famous city of the stere, and they will seek the hard-fought fields on which the legious of Sherman and Hood melted away before a deadly rain of iron and lead.

A Speech Nominating Altgeld for Senator From the Chicago Journal. Dennis Sullivan of Cook brought down the house by

Ever since Christ was rescued from the bloody hands of King Herod and carried into Egypt on a donkey, he thanked God that the donkey was the symbol of the Democratic party." It was several minutes before the speaker could

From the Alaska Searchlight.

If there is any reliability to be placed on newspaper reports, Max Pracht will be our next Governor. Mr Fracht has done good work for his party, not only turing the last campaign but for many years. Harper's Monthly for February opens with

Mr. R. H. Davis's account of the coronation of Nicho-las II. of Russia; Mr. L. J. Perry affords certain glimpses of Lincoln's family life during the war; Mr. & Becket, Octave Thanet, Sara Beaumont Kennedy, and Mrs. Briscoe contribute short stories; Du Maurier's "Martian" is continued; Mr. Poultney Digelow and Mr. C. F. Lummis describe respectively ertain aspects of South Africa and Mexico. Richard Wheatley has an article on "Hygria in Manhattan, and Mr. Thomas Hastings comments on "Architectual Modern Life." The Stav. H. R. Hawels is amo the contributors to the number, in which, it shows be noted, postry and humor are not neglected.

IRELAND'S NEW AGITATION.

Taxation a Subject That Promises Inter-BELFAST, Jan. 12.-Mr. A. J. Balfour has sounded the war cry, and we shall in a little time be able to judge of the value and sincerity of our aristocratic-led agitation. Our leading Unionist paper, the News-Letter, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Ulster Union ists appear as if they were getting ready to bolt

I have a very indifferent opinion of the intel lect of our aristocracy, who, besides, have always proved themselves selfish to the marrow of their bones. They have, however, every in centive to agitation. The Union has be ruinous measure for them. They sold their rights to tax and administer a population nov yielding imperial taxation amounting to \$45. yielding imperial taxation amounting to \$45.000,000 per annum for \$7,500,000 and 23
peragres plus a few official posts. Until 184846-47, they found compensation in using imperial wealth and strength to fisces their serfs,
but free trade made rents unreliable, and ever
increasing poverty, combined with a steady ries
is imperial taxation, compelled the Government
to interfere between the landlords and their
serfs, who could not pay both rent and taxes.
Then came the land sots, and the new franchise
for Ireland (1884-85). This last deprived the
landlords of every remaining vestige of political
power, and since then they handed; and they
see what little influence freiand has, credited to
the masses, The last land act, albeit a wretched
measure, has greatly irritated and alarmed
them. The clauses warranting the sale of estates
under receivers hands in the Incumbered Estates Court is very much more important than
its framers yet suspect.

Irish estates are heavily incumbered and
heavily mortgaged. Many are not worth more
than half the sum they are supposed to be
security for. They can now be sold at the demand of the tenants or at the demand of a
mortgage. The court collects rents to the
amount of about \$7,500,000 a year, the country
paying the cost of this agency. The sale of
this property will alarm outsiders, and in one
way and another landlords and their creditors
are bound to lose heavily. Then, again, one
main source of Irish Protestant loyalty is
hatred of the Catholic Church, yet the present
fovernment is about to hand over lower and
higher education to the Catholic clergy, and
will pay for both out of State funds. The only
way to political influence how lies through the
yote of the masses, and our aristocracy must
remain as they now are, mers lookers-on, unless
they can obtain this yote. 000,000 per annum for \$7,500,000

THE DEATH RATE OF NEW YORK. Doubt Cast on the Estimate of Population by the Health Department

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: There would be more ground for satisfaction with the figures given by Mayor Strong of the death rate in New York city, if those figures were based upon reliable census returns. Admitting the police census of 1895 to have been fairly occurate, there had been no previous enumeration of a trustworthy character since 1880 or for about fifteen years. The census of 1890 was notoriously untrustworthy, and the local enum

notoriously untrustworthy, and the local enumeration which followed it failed for equally
notorious reasons to command public comnidence. The Board of Health appears
to have discarded both the national ceasus of
1800 and the subsequent enumeration under
State authority; and the population is estimated according to Farr's formula, on the
basis of the Federal ceasus of 1880 and the
police ceasus of Abril, 1895.

That is, the death rate for fifteen years is
based wholly on an estimate founded on Farr's
formula, or is a guess based on a guess. The
floating and transient population of New York is
very great; the presence or absence of a hundred
thousand people or so makes but little difference,
and the tide of population swells and recedes
with hardly a ripple perceptible in the current
of traffic. It must be difficult to estimate the
population from year to year by any rule or
formula, and when estimates are carried along
for fifteen years the results are likely to be
wholly misleading. There is an opinion largely
prevalent that the death rate of the past year
does not compare as favorably with some recent
years as appears in the estimates.

H. M.

JAN. 20.

NEW HONOR FOR GEN. TRACY.

He Becomes a Boss Farmer.

Gen. Benjamin F. Tracy has been elected President and Hamilton Busbey Vice-President of the New York State Agricultural Society. Hereafter the meetings of the Executive Board will be held in this city to accommodate the will be held in this city to accommodate the President. This Executive Board is composed of the eight Vice-Presidents, one from each judicial district, the five ex-Presidents whose term of office has last expired, the Recording Secretary, the Corresponding Secretary, the Treasurer, and a committee of eight additional members. The Corresponding Secretary is James H. Docharty, the Recording Secretary is James H. Docharty, the Recording Secretary the Hon. Frederick C. Schraub, and the Treasurer W. Judson Smith.

The next State fair will be held at Syracuse Aug. 23-28, and Gen. Tracy, who is a fartner and breeder, will make personal efforts to make it a success.

THE NORTH WOODS

A Timely Warning by Gov. Black. From Garden and Forest.

It is now twenty five years since the passage of an act by the Legislature of New York providing for the appointment of seven Commissioners of Parks for the State, who were directed to inquire into the expediency of "providing for vesting in the State the title to the timbered regions lying within the counties of Lewis, Essex, Clinton, Franklin, St. Lawrence, Herkimer, and Hamilton, and converting the same into a public park." And now, twenty-five years later, Gov. Black, in his first annual message, pronounces these words of warning and reproof: "A question too long neglected is the preservation of our forests. The State, either through indifference or false eco has been stripped of its most valuable tim as allowed its water supply to be seriously impaired and the most wonderful sanitarium of the world t be defaced and partially destroyed. Every elements of economy and foresight is outraged by this course. The Governor has come to a point which his predocessors should have reached long ago. Commissions and reports and constitutional restrictions will be unand reports and constitutional restrictions will be un availing so long as the greater part of this region re nains in private hands. The first thing needed is money to secure these lands forever for the State This is the only salvation of the Adirondack forests.

The sooner these lands are acquired by the State in fee simple the better. The cost alarmed Commiss. ers twenty five years ago, but we can all now see tha the State would have made a wise investment if it had purchased every acre then. The land will conmore to-day, and many times as much twenty-five rears hence; but in the end the State must own th every dictate of wisdom suggests that their devasts don should be arrested at the earliest moment.

Onths.

From the St. James's Gazette. A pleasing testimonial to the resources of the Eng lish language was given at Manchester. An inquiry was being held as to a house reputed to be used for gambling. It was frequented by poor Jews, and they were stated in a general way to have spoken their own Yiddisn—except when they wished to swear. Then they used English. Our caths appear to be simpler and stronger than those of any other tongue The Spaniards', though it must be admitted they are coarser, are too ciaborats. They swear, not in words, but in sentences. The same may be said of Italian execuations. French are a failure. They beat us in slang, but in simple objurgation they are nowhere. German imprecations mean a good deal, but that is just where they fall. The essence of a good, round oath is mystery. And that is why American swea ng, though sonorous, misses its mark. There is too much thought in it.

Old Scores with Albion

Prom the York Datly.

Without the assistance of France we should not have achieved our independence, and but for the threatened intervention of Russia in 1861 England would have recognized the independence of the Southern Confederacy, and aided her with her army and navy in disrupting the Union. As it was, Great Siritalo, in furnishing and harbor

ing the Confederate privateurs, succeeded in effectual-ly driving our very extensive commerce from the seas a loss from which we have never even approximately recovered. She ruthlessly destroyed our seal herds in H-hring Sea, and robbed us whenever she was af forded an opportunity. We have many scores to set tle with her before we get even, and it is only after that equality has been attained should we co of arbitration. Retributive justice first, last and all the time.

A Roman Catholic Statement, From the Boston Pilot.

A movement toward the Catholic Church, alread resembling in its magnitude the Tractarian a ment of the '30s and '40s, has begun in England. Fifteen thousand people were received into the Church during the past fifteen months. A great nun ber of these converts are from the Ritu n the Angilean Communion; and some of the mos notable of them have come in since Pope Leo XIII. confirmed the decisions of his predecessors against

> The Drama in Arcestock. From the Aronetook Leader.

SAVING THE LAST DIAMOND.

The Only Remaining One of an Heirless Cluster Set in a Man's Tooth.

From the Chicago Dally Tribune. A new way to keep a diamond from being lost or stolen has been discovered by F. Van Craes procek, 5521 Washington avenue, with the aid of a Hyde Park dentist. Instead of having the gem set in a ring or stud Mr. Van Craenbroeck resterday afternoon caused the precious stone to be placed in a cavity in one of his teeth, where it will be both ornamental and useful, and probably in no danger of falling into the

hands of thieves.

This particular diamond has a known history that extends back through the French revolution and four generations of the young man'

tion and four generations of the young man's family. It was to preserve it, and not because he needed it as a tooth filling, that he had the stone set in an upper biccepid.

The diamond is a small one, weighing only an eighth of a carat, but it has been carefully cut. Originally it was set with twenty-six others in a gold band ring belonging to Mr. Van Craenbroeck's great-great-great-grandmother, who was a native of France. The ring went through successive generations, and each per possessor hat some of the gens. Finally, when Mr. Van Craenbroeck obtained the ring from his mother sewaral years ago there was only one diamond left.

Some time ago Mr. Van Craenbroeck's mother

diamond left.

Some time ago Mr. Van Craenbroeck's mother
died, and he was especially anxious to preserve
the diamond as a memento of her. The ring
having lost its setting, was of little value as a

having lost its setting, was of little value as a keepsage.

Dr. Fredus A. Thurston, whose offices is in the same building as that of Mr. Van Craenbroeck, voluntsered to set the gem in a tooth, where it could not fall out, probably would not be found by thieves, and would be a pleasing addition to a smile.

Monday afternoon a hole was drilled in the front of the first upper blouspid tooth in such a position that when the diamond was set it would sparkle in plain sight whenever the young man smiled. Yesterday the setting was completed.

completed.

The cavity was drilled round, but the stone had been out with one large facet and many small ones. The hole was only deep enough to admit a part of the stone, the remainder being allowed to project from the tooth like the setting of a ring.

allowed to project from the tooth like the setting of a ring.

The cavity was finally filled full of tooth cement, and the diamond was pressed into it. The large facet was left on the cutside. Then the dentist took a small maller and a bit of wood and pounded the diamond into place, just as is customary in filling teeth with gold. When the pounding was complete the setting of the stone was ended, with the exception of scraping away the cement from the edges of the diamond, which will be done later.

It required the most careful handling to keep the diamond from getting lost. Whenever it droppedjout of the cavity during the fitting process the sparkle was all that enabled the dentist to find it. Once or twice it dropped to the floor

ess the sparkle was all that enabled the dentist to find it. Once or twice it dropped to the floor and the owner of the diamond and the Centist had a long search for it.

The precious tooth-filling shines best by lamp light, when it is visible across a good-sized room. Even by daylight, however, the sparkle of the gem will be sufficient to attract attention whenever its owner parts his line. As it is placed at the front of the tooth the setting will last a life-time.

time.

It is said this is the first case of a diamond being used in Chicago as a tooth filling. The experiment has been tried in New York in one or two instances, and in Europe, but there is no known instance where a gem with the historical interest of this one has been set in such a queer place to preserve the stone and not the tooth.

SHORTHAND IN THE SENATE. Mr. Mason of Illinois the Latest Pot-Hook

Expert to Be Elected. From the Chicago Record.

The election of "Billy" Mason will add a other competent shorthand reporter to the membership of the United States Senate. Severa years ago he was considered one of the best in Island Railroad used to say that a first-classtenographer was spoiled when Mason went into politics.

It is not generally known that Senator Chand ler of New Hampshire is also a proficient stenog rapher, like Representative Hitt of Illinois rapher, like Representative Hitt of Illinois. Both of them have been professionals, and both still use the shorthand system in making notes during debates, committee meetings, &c. Although he has not had active practice for twenty-five or thirty years. Mr. Chandler is able to make and transcribe his notes as rapidly as when he was a voung man in daily practice as reporter for the Supreme Court of New Hampshirs.

One day in a committee meeting of Senators there was a lively dispute between Mr. Chandler and a Democratic colleague. As it grew heated Mr. Chandler, who is always an egasperating antagonist in a controversy, accused his

ating antagonist in a controvers; accused his opponent of contradicting himself, which the latter stoutly denied.

"I will tell you exactly what you said," retorted Mr. Chandler. "I thought you were speaking recklessly and would disavow it sooner or later, so I took your words down in shorthand."

Then he began to read from a page covered with pothooks, and the other members of the committee testified to the accuracy of his re-Several years ago in New Hampshire an im-portant legal case arose which rested upon the portant legal case arose which rested upon the accuracy of the translation of the notes of the shorthand reporter who had been employed by an attorney in the case, and Senator Chandler was called upon as an expert. A great deal depended upon whether a certain sign in the notes should be translated "at" or "of." Mr. Chandler took an envelope out of his pocket and on the back of it made two marks with a lead pencil. "Now," he said to the attorney. "if you can tell me which of those characters was used in the copy I will tell you without looking at it which word it was intended for. The characters used for 'at' and 'of' are generally similar, but any stenographer can distinguish them at a giance."

A Nun Bostor. From the Catholic Standard and Time From the Catholic Standard and Pines.

Many members of Catholic sisterhoods are skilled in the practice of medicine, but very fet have taken a regular college course an received the diploma required by law befor they can place M. D. after their names. Rarely therefore, is the public greeting by an announcement like the following:

SISTER RAPHAEL M. D. Hours from 9 to 11 A. M. Office at Convent, rear of Lefevre institute, Entrance on Cooley street.

The above is taken from a journal published in Kalamazoo, Mich., where Sister Raphael, M. D., is an honored member of the profession. This nun-doctor was graduated from one of our Philadelphia medical colleges previous to becoming a member of the religious order of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The is a sister of Father O'Brien, rector of the church at Kalamazoo, Mich., and she has in the convent in that city an office which is fitted up with a dentist's chair and every appliance for a large office bractice, both medical and surgical. She is also one of the physicians in the Borgess Hospital attached to the convent. A religious in the Grey Nun's Convent. Montreal, Canada, is, we believe, a regular dentist.

Swinding Talent Recognized.

From the Chicago Trues-Herald.

"The other day a well-dressed fellow came in here and ordered a meal amounting to 80 cents." said a Monroe street restaurateur. "Before he was ready to leave another man strolled in, took a seat at the same table and ordered ceffee and rolls. When the first man finished his meal he calmly picked up the newcomer's 10-cent check, paid a dime at the cashier's desk and walked out. Of course there was a howl from the remaining customer when he saw that an 80-cent check had been left for him to settle, and we could do nothing but accept 10 cents from him and pocket a loss of 70 cents.

"Yesterday I happened to be behind the cashier's desk when one of the same tellows came up, passed over a ten-cent check, and laid down a dime. I immediately handed back the coin and said: 'You don't owe me anything. I am sgreat admirer of nerve. I used to work with Bill Deolin till he was killed; then I drifted into the restaurant business. Go back to your partner there and teil him that his check is settled, too, and that he needn't worry about making as kick about its size this time. And, by the way, have a cigar on me.' I added, handing out a box of the best Havanas.

"The fellow looked at me quizzically for a moment, extended his hand for the cigar, and said: 'You're a theroughbred, and no mistake. Thanks. I'll jest take one for Billy, too.' And he did." From the Chicago Times-Herald.

Bixteen Better. From the Indianapolis Journa.

"Might I ask," said the lady from South America, "why that plain person at the far side of the room arrogates unto herself so many airs?" "She is a Daughter of the Revolution," said "She is a Daughter of the Revolution," said the rogated, in awed tones, "Her the one interrogated, in awed tones. "Her ancestor fought in the Revolution." "Oh," said the lady from South America, "I myself am a daughter of seventeen of them."

The Turkey Trade. From the Turf. Held and Farm

From the Tury, Held and Farm.

It is estimated that the turkey trade of the United States exceeds \$12,000,000 annually. The greatest of the turkey-growing States are Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas. Rhode Island produced but 11,000 turkeys in 1890, but the flavor of the bird raised in that little State is well known to epicures.

"Does your wife enjoy her whist club?"
"Can't eay-but I do; she comes home she doesn't say a word."

FOREIGN NOTES OF REAL INTERNAM

A monastery of Service Fathers has been opened Begbroke, near Oxford. It is called St. Philip.

College, Major Gubbine has taken the place of Lord Henry nell Somercet in Queen Victoria's Honorabil

Corps of Gentlemen at Arms. It will be known as the "Diamond Jubiles" of

Queen Victoria. The Prince of Waler has settled to by using the phrase in a public speech. Great Britain cannot find enough tall men for the

Foot Guards, so the standard of height has been reduced half an Inch, to 8 feet 814 in thes. Kalser Wilhelm has selected Lorizing's "Undine" for the performance at the Opera House on his next birthday. The opera has never been given in Be-

A Weigh collier named Thomas declares that he is the heir to the Drymma estate, which is worth \$30,000,000, and to \$15,000, 000 lying in chancery, and has begun a suit to recover the property.

Mr. Justice Chitty has just been made a Lord Jusice of Appeal, in place of Lord Justice Kay, who resigns on account of ill beatth. Justice Chirty rowed stroke of the Oxford crew in three races with Cambridge.

Orange's Roman Theatre has been completely restored and is now the finest ancient theatre is Europe. Next summer performances of the Anti gone and the Erinnyes will be given, and President Keiser Wilhelm has designed the tower for the

German Protestant Church at Jerusalem, which will

be completed by the end of the year. It will cost Sultan to King William I, in the sixties. Mr. Herbert Spencer, who has consented to let Hubert Herkomer paint his portrait, the money having been raised by public subscription, refused sight

years ago to let Millais paint him, wishing to pre test against the abuse of subscription portraits. On the occasion of its 150th anniversary the Aberdeen Journal boasts that it was founded by a fellow apprentice of Benjamin Franklin. The first number contained an account of the battle of Culloden. The Journal was a weekly till 1876, when it became a

Conservative daily. Emin Pasha's will, leaving his property to a daughter by his Abyssinian wife, has been declared valid by the Supreme Court of Berlin. It was conte-ted by a woman who had bought up the rights . Turkish woman claiming to be Emin's first and

only legitimate wife. A queer Parisian commemoration is that of the the most aristocratic church of the Faubourg At, Germain, Sainte Clottide. There is nothing to non in the place and the works or the wretched

England is about to change the system of carrying the gunners of field batteries by mounting them on the off side horses instead of seating them on the limber boxes of the guns. This system was in use forty years ago and was condemned in consequence of the experience in the Indain mutiny.

A British gunboat, the Landrall, recently ran down a merchant steamer at Portland. The Admirally refuses to pay damages on the ground that a court-martial having found the officer of the watch on the gunbost responsible for the collision, ompensation must be sought for from him,

An epidemic of madness has broken out in the La Roquette quarter of Paris. Nine patients in the Tenon Hospital were seized with the mania of great-ness in two days, imagining themselves the Ozar, Sapoleon I., the Angel Gabriel, &c., while eight per ons outside the hospital were taken into custody as lunatics by the police in one day.

Everything is being made ready in England to and Cecti Rhodes, Mr. Fairfield, the Under Secreary for the Colonial Department, who, by his time-ly warning, led Mr. Chamberlain to interfere with the Jameson raid, is announced to be down with

pear before the South Africa Commission. Heinrich Gatke, who in feeling from Prussian po land, and spent the rest of his life there, marrying a native, paleting marine views, and watching the flights of birds over the island, has just died at the age of 88. His collection of migratory birds is in the South Kensington Museum. He held the place of Government Secretary until the English gave us

M. Delacour, a keeper of the Compagnie Transatlantique's landing stage at Havre, has just been made a knight of the Legion of Honor, having, at the decree declares, "exhausted the whole series of rewards given by the Department of Marine for any six lives, the first in 1840. He had already receive

medal of honor. "Saint George for Marry Abyssinia" will take the place of the older war cry. A Russian painter has just completed for Negus Menelik a picture of the battle of Adowah In which Saint C charger is represented as helping the Abyssinians to rout the Italians. The story of the Saint's appearance has arisen from the fact that the Italians turned a church dedicated to him near the town inte

a cavalry stable. Russia punishes offending officials. The Governor of Mohilew recently sentenced a man to fifty strokes of the knout, though corporal punishment has been abolished, and the district President in creased this to 100 strokes. The man complained and the President was sentenced to six months' mprisonment. This sentence has been set aside as

for sudangering the man's life. In contesting the will of a Parisian old lady recently evidence was put in that she was in the habit of putting fresh fig leaves on the statues in her garden every day in summer, and in winter of providing with cotton drawers. She was fone of being drawn through the country town where her summer residence was in a wheelbarrow, distributing pen-nies to the children that cheered her. She was shrewd enough, however, to increase the fortune

left to her to 3,000,000 france. France has 38,518,975 inhabitants, according to the census taken at the end of tast March, an increase of only 175,027 since 1891, and of 299,072 tince 1886. The population of Paris is 2,536,000, an increase of 88,000. The increase in towns of over 80,000 inhabitants is \$27,000 since 1891. The num ber of foreigners has declined, being 1,027,000, as compared with 1,115,000 in 1886. This is partly due to easier naturalization laws and partly to the ill treatment of foreign workmen.

Guizot's three greaf-grandsons have been expelled by the German Government from Alance, where they were spending Christmas with their grand-father, M. Schlumberger, at Guebweiler, The young men had made visits previously without nolestation to M. Schlumberger, who is a rich man ufacturer and who accepted the German rule. The measure is believed to be a stupid act of spite on account of the youngest boy having chosen French nationality recently on attaining the age of 16, as his brothers had done before him.

Don Carlos's third daughter, Princess Maria Bea trice, has become engaged to Prince Fabricio Mas simo, whose family professes to be descended from the Fabil of ancient Rome. He is the great grandson of the Duchesse de Berry, mother of the Comte de Chambord, who in her day had as scandalous sa adventure as Princess Elvira's. The Prince has been a much-engaged man. Before he was of age he eloned with the daughter of a Roman engineer. they were separated, the girl being put in a convent. When no became of age he asked her to marry bim, but she would not leave the convent, as his family refused to recognise her. Then he be came engaged to one of the Italian Banaparte princeares and to her cousin, the Princess Ruspell, but both engagements were broken off. The Prince writes poetry. It was from his father's palace that Donna Elvira eloped recently.

Buddha Sakya-Muni's long lost birthplace was recently stumbled upon accidentally by a Govern-ment archeological expedition in Nepaul sent to explore the country around his Nirwaus stups at Konagamna. By a blunder the expedition met the Nepalese authorities fifteen miles from the place to se explored, near the tahati of Bhagwanpur, in the district of Euraul. While encamped there a mono-lith of the Emperor Asona was noticed aranding ten feet above the ground. On it was a pilgrim's inscription of the ninth century, which led the expedition to dig around the stone to a cepth of fourteen fest, when an inscription of the Emperor was found. He states that in the twentieth year of his reign (about 239 B. C.) he had erected this column on the very spot where Lord Buddhs was born. Eighteen miles northwest of the column the expedition came upon great ruins of stupas, me arteries, and palaces covered with forest and stretching for five miles to the Banganga River, the circumference being about seven miles. This is the site of Kapilavastu, the capital of Buddha's father. and will undountedly yield inscriptions earlier than these of Asoka. Excavations will be made there as soon as the factine which is now afficient